

# FRIDAY NIGHT FACTS

OFFICE OF FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



MITCHELL E. DANIELS, JR., GOVERNOR  
PAULA PARKER-SAWYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## VA Services for Returning Combat Veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has developed special programs to serve the nation's newest veterans – the men and women who served in Iraq and Afghanistan – by assisting them with a smooth transition from active duty to civilian life. VA's goal is to ensure that every seriously injured or ill serviceman and woman returning from combat receives easy access to benefits and world-class service. Combat veterans have special health care eligibility. Their contact with VA often begins with priority scheduling for care and, for the most seriously wounded, VA counselors visiting their bedside in military wards before separation to ensure their VA disability payment coverage will be ready the moment they leave active duty. Through enhanced programs and new policies, VA is striving to ensure it holds open the doors to a seamless transition from soldier to citizen.

To view and download VA news releases, please visit <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel>

**Veterans' Day is Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>.** To those of you who have served, for those of you who are currently serving, and for those families who have relatives serving....**THANK YOU!**

## Alert from the Social Security Administration about an Email Scam

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, Jo Anne Barnhart, Commissioner of Social Security, and Patrick O'Carroll, Jr., Inspector General of Social Security, issued a warning about a new email scam that has surfaced recently.

The Agency has received several reports of an email message being circulated with the subject "Cost-of-Living for 2007 update" and purporting to be from the Social Security Administration. The message provides information about the 3.3 percent benefit increase for 2007 and contains the following "NOTE: We now need you to update your personal information. If this is not completed by November 11, 2006, we will be forced to suspend your account indefinitely." The reader is then directed to a website designed to look like Social Security's Internet website.

"I am outraged that someone would target an unsuspecting public in this manner," said Commissioner Barnhart. "I have asked the Inspector General to use all the resources at his command to find and prosecute whoever is perpetrating this fraud."

Once directed to the phony website, the individual is asked to register for a password and to confirm their identity by providing personal information such as the individual's Social Security number, bank account information and credit card information.

Inspector General O'Carroll recommends people always take precautions when giving out personal information. **"You should never provide your Social Security number or other personal information over the Internet or by telephone unless you are extremely confident of the source to whom you are providing the information,"** O'Carroll said.

To report receipt of this email message or other suspicious activity to Social Security's Office of Inspector General, please call the OIG Hotline at 1-800-269-0271. (TTY number at 1-866-501-2101). A Public Fraud Reporting form is also available online at OIG's website <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/oig>





# Save the Date

December 1, 2006

The Indiana Institute for Working Families, Indiana Coalition on Housing and Homeless Issues will be holding the *2006 Symposium on the Status of Working Families in Indiana* on **December 1, 2006** in Indianapolis at the Radisson Hotel City Centre.

We will be featuring Tamara Draut, author of Strapped: Why America's 20- and 30-Somethings Can't Get Ahead. Strapped offers a groundbreaking look at the new obstacle course facing young adults as they try to build careers, buy homes and start families. A college degree is the new high school diploma - but now it costs a fortune to get that degree and students graduate with crippling debts. Good jobs are scarcer thanks to stagnant wages and disappearing benefits. And, the cost of everything keeps going up and up.

This will be the first of a series of winter symposiums that the Institute will be holding throughout the state, with future locations to be determined at a later date. The December 1 symposium will take place from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. For more information, please call 1-800-939-1617, email [mconnor@ichhi.org](mailto:mconnor@ichhi.org) or visit their website at <http://www.ichhi.org>

## FYI...

All Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) will be closing the evening of Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. The Small Business Administration (SBA) will be opening Disaster Loan Outreach Centers at the same locations in Lake County, Vanderburgh County and Warrick County on Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. The last date to register for FEMA assistance is December 5<sup>th</sup>. This is also the deadline to file SBA disaster loan home and business applications.

## Coordinating the Feds

A new law aims to streamline federal assistance for children and youth. The bipartisan Federal Youth Coordination Act created the Federal Youth Development Council, which will be responsible for ensuring improved communication among federal agencies serving youth, assessing the needs of youth and youth workers, identifying overlap among federal assistance programs, and recommending allocation of resources. For more information, please visit <http://www.youthcoordinationact.org/>.



**Great website article if you are interested in how to write a good grant !**

<http://www.guidestar.org/DisplayArticle.do?articleId=1068>

## EDUCATION INFORMATION

### Emergency Planning Webcast

In follow-up to the Conference on School Safety, the Department's Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools (OSDFS) will host a webcast (November 15, 1-2 PM, ET) to review emergency planning and share ways schools can help mitigate, prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from a crisis. Details on the webcast, can be found at <http://www.ed.gov/emergencyplan/>.

### International Education Week

This year marks the seventh annual celebration of International Education Week (November 13-17), jointly sponsored by the US Departments of Education and State. This year's theme is "International Education: Engaging in Global Partnerships and Opportunities." Keeping with that theme, the Education Department is partnering with NASA to highlight the importance of rigorous math, science, and foreign language curriculum. The agency will also link up with local schools to showcase foreign language studies. For more information, please visit <http://iew.state.gov/>

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### **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Indiana Receives Grant to Fund Innovative Amichi Program**

The Family & Youth Services Bureau awarded Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Indiana (BBBSCI) a three-year grant to fund its Amachi mentoring program. This program is a unique partnership between BBBSCI and faith-based organizations to provide one-to-one mentoring for children of incarcerated parents.

A national collaboration between Big Brothers Big Sisters of America and Public/Private Ventures beginning in Philadelphia in 2001, the Amachi mentoring model has been successfully replicated throughout the country. The model now operates in over 240 sites in 49 states and has partnered with over 3,000 churches to serve over 40,000 children in the US. BBBSCI plans to serve 175 children in its first year as an Amachi mentoring site.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Indiana, Inc. is a non-profit organization that develops mentors committed to helping boys and girls grow into the next generation of caring, confident and competent adults. BBBSCI serves Marion, Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Morgan, and Shelby counties. An affiliate of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America and a United Way partner, BBBSCI has created mentoring relationships in central Indiana for over 30 years. For more information, visit [www.bbbsci.org](http://www.bbbsci.org) or call 317-921-2201.



## A Report from the Field

By: Brad Pontius, Minister of Missions & Community Service

On Saturday, November 4, 2006, 900 volunteers from Bloomington were mobilized by Sherwood Oaks Church in cooperation with the City of Bloomington Volunteer Network and the Mayor's office to serve 15 local agencies under the name of CareFest 06.

The objectives of CareFest was to "bless" the community by serving non-faith based organizations with no strings attached, to bridge the gap between the faith based and non-faith based agencies, and to encourage the Sherwood Oaks Church family to serve more in the community.

Projects were solicited via personal contact and e-mail with the assistance of the City of Bloomington Volunteer Network. The project boundaries were 50-100 volunteers, mostly unskilled, preferably "people helping" and family friendly. The projects chosen were mixed indoor, outdoor, family friendly, light duty, heavy duty.

The agencies served were: Templeton Elementary Friday Free Market, Highland Park School, University School, Bloomington Boys and Girls Club, Crestmont Boys and Girls Club, Bloomington Parks and Recreation - Meadowood Trail and Winslow Woods Trail, Indiana University Research and Teaching Preserve at Griffy Lake, Willy Streeter Community Gardens, Goodwill Stores, Salvation Army Thrift Store and Gymnasium, Shalom Center, Backstreet Mission, and Hannah House. Teenagers went door to door collecting food items and winter clothing for the homeless. Junior High students raked leaves for over 20 local residents.

The skills/tasks performed were varied: painting, landscaping, leaf raking, carpentry, clothes sorting, cleaning, flyer distribution (door to door), mural painting, trail mulching, weed eating, rock carrying, window winterizing, floor laying, pumpkin patch disposing, etc.

CareFest was inspiring for those who served and for the many agencies and individuals who benefited from the service.

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*"But where was I to start? The world is so vast, I shall start with the country I knew best, my own. But my country is so very large. I had better start with my town. But my town, too, is large. I had best start with my street. No, my home. No, my family. Never mind, I shall start with myself."*

Elie Wiesel



The Alzheimer's Association and the Indianapolis Urban League have joined forces to bring you "Killing Me Softly," an interactive family-oriented health education series.

These programs will focus on various health issues that affect African Americans at a disproportionately higher rate than other ethnic groups.

You'll learn about prevention and intervention, meet local experts working in healthcare, and learn behavior modifying tips and techniques that will lead to permanent lifestyle change for better health now and for generations to come.

alzheimer's  association®

INDIANAPOLIS URBAN LEAGUE 

#### Collaborating Partners:

Indiana Alzheimer Disease Center at Indiana University School of Medicine; Indiana Healthy Family and Marriage Coalition; Indiana State Department of Health; Robin Run Health Care

*Introducing the Killing Me Softly series...*

## Alzheimer's disease and Living a Brain-Healthy Life

**November 14, 2006  
5:45 – 7:45 p.m.**

**Indianapolis Urban League  
777 Indiana Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN 46222**

(2<sup>nd</sup> building to the west of the Madame Walker Theater)

***Free Meal, Free Childcare,  
Free Parking.  
No registration required.***

Mary Guerriero Austrom, Ph.D., Wesley P. Martin Professor of Alzheimer Disease Education Department of Psychiatry and Director of Education Indiana Alzheimer Disease Center, will present vital information on how Alzheimer's disease and Vascular Dementia are affecting the African American community. Learn how to reduce your risk and lead a more brain-healthy lifestyle.

***Open to the Public. Families welcomed.***

  
**ROBIN RUN  
VILLAGE**  
BROOKDALE SENIOR LIVING

  
Indiana Alzheimer Disease Center

**For more information, call:  
Indianapolis Urban League at 317-693-7644  
Alzheimer's Association Helpline at 1-800-272-3900**

## Going To College Soon?



Need Help completing your  
College application?

Join us at Our second Annual  
College Application Drive

At

Media Room

Arsenal Tech High School

1500 East Michigan Street

Indianapolis, IN 46201

Students should bring

Rough Draft of their  
resume

Personal Statement

List of all Achievements  
and activities

## Marion County Bar Association

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Volunteers will assist high school students with preparation of  
applications, resumes, or personal statements for admission to college

For questions contact: Tonya Lengar 317-285-1605 or email [mcba-collegedrive@hotmail.com](mailto:mcba-collegedrive@hotmail.com)

**Date: 11/18/2006**

**Time: 12 pm to 4**